

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	History of the First Proletarian Division of the Soviet Army	DATE DISTR.	18 March 1954	
		NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	<input type="text"/>	25X1

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1. The First Proletarian Division of the Soviet Army was an infantry division when in fall 1939. At that time the division was quartered in the Chernishevskiy Barracks in Moscow. The barracks were located near Danilskoye Square in the Serpukhovka district of Moscow. unable to describe the barracks area other than to state that there were two or three old, large, stone barracks which were used as both living quarters and mess halls. The division remained at this location until April 1940, when it moved to its summer training camp at Alabino (N 55-32, E 37-00). The division was subordinate to the headquarters of the Moscow Garrison (sic; possibly Military) District. 25X1
2. In June 1940, the division moved to Daugavpils (Dvinsk) (N 55-53, E 26-32), Latvian SSR, via Lithuania, for occupation duties. The division was mechanized shortly before leaving the USSR and was renamed the First Moscow Mechanized Division. Even after its mechanization, the division remained an infantry division. The only change was that the regiments of the division began using trucks as personnel carriers. truck drivers were not available in sufficient numbers. When the division was designated a mechanized division, all major units of the division established their own driver training schools. no information on current driver training. The division received old three-ton ZIS and Molotov models, which were transferred to the division from the Finnish front. They were in poor condition when received. The drivers available at that time were often incompetent. the general driving abilities of the Soviet soldier have improved considerably since that time. 25X1
3. In September 1940, the division returned to the Chernishevskiy Barracks in Moscow, where it remained until the outbreak of the war in June 1941. Later in 1941 the division was 95 percent decimated in a battle at Yelnya (N 54-34, E 33-10), near Smolensk, and was deactivated.

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4. The following units were among those subordinate to the First Proletarian Division (later the First Moscow Mechanized Division):

- a. First Infantry Regiment.
- b. Third Infantry Regiment.
- c. 28th Independent Communications Battalion. This battalion had 12 to 15 horses before its mechanization.
- d. U/i artillery regiment.
- e. U/i tactical reconnaissance platoon.
- f. U/i engineer battalion.
- g. Ordnance platoon (medium automotive maintenance and weapon repair).

5. [] the following personalities connected with the division:

- a. Major General BIRICHEV (fnu). He was Commanding General of the division until August 1940, when he was transferred out of the division for having displayed poor tactics in mobility during the Baltic occupation. He was sent to the Caucasus as a training director.
- b. Major General LYULYUSHENKO (fnu), Hero of the Soviet Union. He was Commanding General of the First Moscow Mechanized Division in 1940 and 1941. He had previously served on the Finnish front. He taught movement tactics to the division.
- c. Colonel KREIZER (fnu) (phonetic). He was the last Commanding Officer of the division and [] believes that he was killed when the division was decimated at Yelnya.
- d. Lt. Colonel PETROV (fnu). He was Commanding Officer of the Third Infantry Regiment. Petrov was famous for his spit-and-polish training of troops selected for Red Square parades.
- e. Major BARKALOV (fnu). He was Commanding Officer of the 28th Independent Communications Battalion. [] described him as a Prussian type, intelligent, a good officer, and an able technician.

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